

Craighead Environmental Research Institute

Monthly Progress Report: November 2008

for the Montana Department of Transportation and Western
Transportation Institute

Bozeman Pass Wildlife Monitoring

MSU banner number 426899

1 November 2008 – 31 November 2008

Task 1: Road Kill Surveys during November 2008

Road kill surveys were conducted between Bozeman and Jackson Creek. Surveys were conducted on both sides of I-90 from Bozeman to Jackson Creek and back for a total of 22 miles round trip and an estimated 1 hour of labor per survey. Thirteen (13) road-kill surveys were driven during November of 2008. Two (2) of those recorded no new road-kill. This equals 286 miles driven in November for this subcontract. Totals of animals killed between Bozeman and Livingston were:

Bozeman Pass Roadkill Totals	November
Species	Number
Badger	0
Beaver	0
Bobcat	0
Bird Spp.	1
Black Bear	0
Cowbird	0
Coyote	0
Crow	1
Deer species	5
Dog	0
Domestic cat	3
Elk	0
Great Horned Owl	0
Ground Squirrel	0
Harrier	0
Hungarian (Gray) Partridge	0
Long-eared Owl	0
Magpie	2
Mallard	0

Marmot	0
Meadowlark	0
Mink	0
Moose	0
Mule Deer	2
Pigeon	0
Porcupine	0
Rabbit	2
Raven	0
Raccoon	3
Red Fox	0
Ruffed Grouse	0
Snowshoe Hare	0
Skunk	2
Small mammal spp.	0
Weasel	0
White Tail Deer	15

Task 2: Track bed monitoring at the MRL Bridge in November 2008

No track bed sessions were completed in November. The weather was generally too cold and the track bed was frozen. Track bed sessions will resume in the spring.

Task 3: Photo monitoring at fence ends through November 2008

Cameras were downloaded once in November on November 10 and again on December 1. Batteries for these fence-end remote cameras were operational. No identified large animal occurrences were photographed in November at the SE fence end; although the ear of a coyote/fox/deer was photographed but was too overexposed to identify. At the NE fence end: one whitetailed deer was recorded. The camera mounted under the bridge over Bear Canyon road at the western fence end under the I-90 bridge was not downloaded in November.

Task 4: Photo monitoring at jump-outs through November 2008

Cameras at jump-outs were not downloaded in November.

Task 5: Track bed monitoring at fence ends, jump-outs through November 2008

Monitoring of fence ends and jump-outs was discontinued in November because of mostly cold conditions and frozen track beds.

Task 6: Photo monitoring of culverts November 2008

The culvert cameras were downloaded on November 10. Three records of black bear passing through the W culvert were recorded on October 2, 3, and 4. One black bear was recorded passing through the E culvert on October 9. In addition 5 raccoons and 2

humans were recorded in the E culvert. Water ouzels were photographed many times in both culverts.

Task 7: Opportunistic snow tracking at track bed, fence ends, jump-outs, and along the Interstate in November 2008.

We are not conducting snow tracking at the track bed, fence ends and jump-outs until winter.

Task 8: Data Management & Reporting in November 2008

Data entry and summary required two hours during November.

Discussion:

A large number of deer were killed on I-90 during the last few days of November during unseasonably warm weather. It appears that MDT maintenance was also picking up the carcasses more frequently than usual as few of them remained for more than a day. Previously carcasses have remained for weeks at a time.

An invoice was submitted with this report for November expenses and activities. Currently the cumulative total billed to this project is \$26,507.32